

THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the original Abstract with the following Abstract:

[The present invention is directed to an] An expandable hybrid stent for implantation in a body lumen, such as a coronary artery. The stent [generally consists of] includes metallic cylindrical rings used in connection with polymeric links, polymeric wire or a polymeric coil. The metallic cylindrical rings can include series of radially expandable cylindrical rings longitudinally aligned on a common axis of the stent. The rings can be interconnected by one or more polymeric links or can be disposed over an inner member consisting of a polymeric coil or a series of polymeric wires. Adjacent cylindrical rings can also be connected and arranged in a coil-like spiraling form without interconnecting links. The polymeric material forming the polymeric links, polymeric wire or the polymeric coil can provide longitudinal and flexural flexibility to the stent while maintaining sufficient column strength to space the cylindrical rings along the longitudinal axis. The metallic material forming the rings in either separate form or coil-like form can provide the necessary radial stiffness.